resources are getting drastically reduced, causing unbearable hardships to small farmers; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The recommendations of the Task Force on Micro Irrigation to exempt customs and excise duty on Micro Irrigation System was examined by the Ministry of Finance. It was felt that the inputs/raw material which would require exemption from custom duty are general use items having a strong domestic angle. Moreover, to ensure that exemption sought is availed of only by the intended beneficiaries, an end-use condition extending two levels will be required which would be administratively infeasible. It has, therefore, been considered that the Micro Irrigation System should be made affordable through the route of subsidy rather than excise and customs duty exemptions.

Shere-e-Kashmir University

1855. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 164 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th July, 2004 and state:

(a) whether the requisite money for 500 acres of land procured for Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology has been received from the State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether compensation has been paid to the villagers for their land acquired for the university;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the Rs. 5427.29 lakhs spent on this university?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The State Government (Jammu & Kashmir) has released Rs. 6 crores to Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Jammu (SKUAST) as first installment, which has been advanced to the Collector, Land Acquisition, Jammu for payment to the land owners as per details given as under:

(i) on 11.8.2003 (ii) on 02.12,2004	:	Rs. 2 crores : Rs. 4 crores
TOTAL:	:	Rs. 6 crores

(c) and (d) Payment of compensation to the villagers falls within the purview of State Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

(e) The details of Rs. 5427.29 lakhs spent on this university are as under—

Year	Expenditure (Rs. in lakh)		
	Plan	Non-Plan	ICAR
1999-2000	171.83	152.24	0.40
2000-2001	427.40	321.35	51.20
2001-2002	755.92	355.15	5.35
2002-2003	790.28	376.51	86.70
2003-2004	1220.65	394.06	318.25
TOTAL:	3366.08	1599.31	461.9
GRAND TOTAL:		5427.29	

Wastage of agricultural produce due to flood, drought etc.

†1856. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large quantity of agricultural products are destroyed every year due to flood, drought and absence of proper techniques and maintenance; and

(b) if so, the assessment of the quantity destroyed separately, due to each of the above said reasons?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.